



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/036,815	10/19/2001	Wayne E. Fisher	M-11460 US	4940
7590	08/26/2005		EXAMINER	
MICHAEL P. ADAMS WINSTEAD SECHREST & MINICK P.C. 5400 RENAISSANCE TOWER 1201 ELM STREET DALLAS, TX 75270-2199			LE, UYEN T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2163	
DATE MAILED: 08/26/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/036,815	FISHER, WAYNE E.	
	Examiner Uyen T. Le	Art Unit 2163	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 May 2005.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6-6-05.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendment to claim 1 is acknowledged. Consequently, rejection to claims 1-18 as being unoperative under 101 is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Note that the description does not discuss the first and second portions of an IMS database now being claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahmad et al (US 5,745,748) of record.

Regarding claims 1, 18, Ahmad discloses that it is well known in the art to store copies of database description for downloading to PC in an IMS environment before accessing remote IMS files (see column 6, lines 6-38). Although Ahmad does not specifically show comparing said copies with the copy maintained in a first portion the database before accessing a second portion of said database, since the database description describes the physical structure of data, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include maintaining a copy in a first portion of the database as one or more database records, comparing copies before each access to the database and determining whether the copies are synchronized in order to ensure correctness of the physical structure of the data before each use.

Regarding claim 5, although Ahmad does not specifically show that action has to be taken if said copy of the description and said description stored in said data management block are not synchronized, since incorrect database descriptions will likely cause problems, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include such features in order to avoid problems arising from incorrect data descriptions.

Regarding claims 2, 9, although Ahmad does not specifically show comparing occurs before each access to said database, since the database description describes the physical structure of data, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include comparing copies before each access to the database in order to ensure correctness of the physical structure of the data before each use.

Regarding claims 3, 10, since the database consists of records, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to store said copy of the database description within said database as one or more database records in the method of Ahmad.

Regarding claims 4, 11, although Ahmad does not specifically show a unique location dependent on said database organization, it is well known in the art that different databases possess different configuration. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the claimed features in order to accommodate different database formats.

Regarding claims 6, 12, 15, although Ahmad does not specifically show alerting a user, since the method of Ahmad involves a user (see the abstract), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include such features in order to allow user's intervention when necessary.

Regarding claims 7, 13, 16, although Ahmad does not specifically show suspending activity, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include such features in order to prevent access to obsolete information.

Regarding claim 8, 14, 17, although Ahmad does not specifically show suspending activity until said description become synchronized, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include such features in order to resume operation once problems are resolved.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uyen T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-4021. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

17 August 2005

Uyen Le
UYEN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER